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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/743,534	12/23/2003	Inge Ostergaard	43315-201417	5778

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Eric J. Franklin
Venable LLP
Post Office Box 34385
Washington, DC 20043-9998

EXAMINER

STEPHENSON, DANIEL P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3672

DATE MAILED: 09/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/743,534

Applicant(s)

OSTERGAARD, INGE

Examiner

Daniel P. Stephenson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 14, 17, 18 and 21-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-13, 15, 16, 19 and 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 December 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/24/04, 12/23/03.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: reference to the claims should not be made within the specification, as claims may change during prosecution. References to the claims appear on page 1, line 6 and page 2, line 14. These references should be deleted.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 2, 17, 18 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Appleford et al. '901. Appleford et al. '901 (Fig.1, col. 5 line 55-col. 6 line 41, col. 11 lines 52-61) discloses a subsea system for processing a fluid emanating from one or more subsea wells, comprising a fluid processing circuit and a base module (3) provided with at least one receiver for receiving an insert module (2) comprising an appliance that forms part of the fluid processing circuit. The receiver comprises a cavity for accommodating the insert module. The insert module is provided with a flange (4), which is adapted to bear on a corresponding flange of the receiver when the insert module is mounted therein. There is a watertight seal arranged between said

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flanges so as to seal the space between the receiver and the part of the insert module received therein from the surrounding seawater (see the British document '271 to Appleford, which is the example given for the connection in Appleford '901). The insert module is adapted to be mounted to the base module (3) by being lowered down vertically into the cavity of the receiver through an opening at the upper part of the cavity. It is demounted from the base module (3) by being lifted vertically out of the cavity. The receiver is provided with a fluid outlet and a fluid inlet adapted to be in fluid communication with a corresponding fluid inlet and fluid outlet of the insert module (2) when the insert module is mounted in the cavity of the receiver. A watertight metal seal is arranged between said flanges to seal the space between the receiver (40) and the part of the insert module received therein from the surrounding seawater. According to GB '271 there is a male-shaped member associated with the receiver and a corresponding female-shaped member associated with the insert module, where the male-shaped member is arranged at the bottom of the receiver cavity. When they are engaged they are sealed, as stated previously. The insert module has sand-cyclones, water pumps and ball valves.

4. Claims 1-4, 14, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dozier. Dozier discloses a subsea system for processing a fluid emanating from one or more subsea wells, comprising a fluid processing circuit and a base module (11, 17, 19) provided with at least one receiver for receiving an insert module (14) comprising an appliance that forms part of the fluid processing circuit. The receiver comprises a cavity for accommodating the insert module. The insert module is provided with a flange (65) at its upper end, which is adapted to bear on a corresponding flange of the receiver when the insert module is mounted therein. There is a watertight seal arranged between said flanges so as to seal the space between the receiver

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and the part of the insert module received therein from the surrounding seawater. The insert module is adapted to be mounted to the base module by being lowered down vertically into the cavity of the receiver through an opening at the upper part of the cavity. It is demounted from the base module by being lifted vertically out of the cavity. The receiver is provided with a fluid outlet and a fluid inlet adapted to be in fluid communication with a corresponding fluid inlet and fluid outlet of the insert module when the insert module is mounted in the cavity of the receiver. A watertight metal seal is arranged between said flanges to seal the space between the receiver and the part of the insert module received therein from the surrounding seawater. There is a female-shaped member (85) associated with the receiver and a corresponding male-shaped member (84) associated with the insert module, where the female-shaped member is arranged at the bottom of the receiver cavity. When they are engaged they are sealed, as stated previously. The insert module and receiver are both rotationally symmetric with corresponding shapes.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dozier in view of Appleford et al. '901. Dozier shows all the limitations of the claimed invention, except it does not explicitly disclose that the processing system includes cyclones, water pumps or ball valves. Appleford et al. '901 discloses the use of cyclones, water pumps and ball valves within a processing system for a multi-phase fluid. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in

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the art at the time the invention was made to use the cyclones, water pumps or ball valves disclosed by Appleford et al. '901 with the apparatus of Dozier. This would be done because Dozier teaches that the unit will have "various types of equipment such as separators, metering tanks, etc." (col. 2 lines 45-50). Cyclones, water pumps or ball valves are commonly used in such processing applications.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 5-13, 15, 16, 19 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

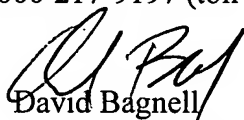
8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Appleford '874, Langner, Ostergaard '427, Appleford et al. '117, Hoel et al. and Château et al. all show similar elements to the present invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel P. Stephenson whose telephone number is (571) 272-7035. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 - 5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David J. Bagnell can be reached on (571) 272-6999. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



David Bagnell
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3672

DPS 